

Message Text

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12

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SUBJECT: NATIONAL INCOME ACCOUNTS 1974

SUMMARY. RECESSION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1974 REDUCED DENMARK'S
OVERALL GROWTH RATE THAT YEAR TO 1.6 PERCENT FROM 3.8 PERCENT
IN 1973. WHILE THE ECONOMY WAS BURDENED BY AN OVERALL COST
INCREASE CLOSE TO 17 PERCENT, THE RISE WAS TO A LARGE EXTENT
IMPORT-INDUCED; THE DOMESTIC RATE OF INFLATION (GNP DEFLATOR)
FELL TO 10 PERCENT FROM 12 PERCENT THE PRECEDING YEAR. WITH
PUBLIC SPENDING THE ONLY EXPANSIVE FACTOR, AGGREGATE DOMESTIC
DEMAND DROPPED 3 PERCENT AND THE EXTERNAL TRADE DEFICIT, IN
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VOLUME TERMS, WAS MORE THAN HALVED. THE IMPACT OF NEGATIVE

TERMS OF TRADE, HOWEVER, BROUGHT THE PAYMENTS DEFICIT UP 75 PERCENT IN CURRENT PRICES. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATISTICS RELEASED MAY 29, DENMARK'S GROSS NATION PRODUCT IN 1974 REACHED \$30.7 BILLION, OR \$6,089 PER CAPITA. WHILE NOMINALLY A 12 PERCENT INCREASE OVER 1973, IN REAL TERMS THIS FIGURE REFLECTED ONLY 1.6 PERCENT OR LESS THAN HALF THE PRECEDING YEAR'S RATE OF 3.8 PERCENT.

2. AT THE TIME, THE DOMESTIC RATE OF INFLATION, AS EXPRESSED BY THE GNP DEFLATOR, DROPPED FROM 12 TO 10 PERCENT BUT, WITH THE HEAVY IMPACT OF IMPORT PRICE RISES, THE COST RISE IN THE ECONOMY OVERALL APPROACHED 17 PERCENT.

3. THE LIMITED GROWTH RATE HELPED IMPROVE THE TRADE BALANCE, AS AGGREGATE DOMESTIC DEMAND DROPPED 3 PERCENT. IN VOLUME TERMS, THE EXTERNAL TRADE DEFICIT WAS MORE THAN HALVED BUT, DUE TO THE NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENT IN TERMS OF TRADE, THE CURRENT PAYMENTS DEFICIT ROSE 75 PERCENT.

4. DOMESTICALLY, PUBLIC SPENDING PROVIDED THE ONLY STIMULUS WITH A LIMITED EXPANSION AT THE RATE OF 2.6 PERCENT. PRIVATE CONSUMPTION DROPPED 3.5 PERCENT AND INVESTMENT OVERALL 4.8 PERCENT.

5. ONLY THE HEAVY INVENTORY BUILD-UP IN 1974 KEPT OVERALL INVESTMENT FROM DROPPING FURTHER. FIXED INVESTMENT ACTUALLY DECLINED 13 PERCENT, INCLUDING A 26 PERCENT DROP IN HOME-BUILDING, AN 11 PERCENT DROP IN PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION, AND A 4 PERCENT DECLINE IN BUSINESS INVESTMENT.

6. THE FIGURES NOW RELEASED SHOW A STRONGER REDUCTION IN DOMESTIC DEMAND THAN INDICATED BY PREVIOUS OFFICIAL ESTIMATES. ONLY THE FACT THAT DEMAND WEAKENING WAS REFLECTED SO STRONGLY IN REDUCED IMPORTS PREVENTED A NEGATIVE GROWTH RATE OF THE ECONOMY IN 1974. CONSIDERING THAT THE RECESSION WAS CONCENTRATED LARGELY IN THE SECOND HALF OF THAT YEAR AND THAT A FURTHER DECLINE IN ACTIVITY IS REGISTERED THUS FAR IN 1975, IT WOULD REQUIRE A VERY SHARP UPTURN OF THE ECONOMY IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR TO PROVIDE EVEN A MODEST EXPANSION ON A YEAR TO YEAR BASIS. SUCH UPTURN IS NOT AT PRESENT INDICATED AND NOT EXPECTED BY OFFICIAL DANISH FORECASTERS, SUCH AS THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS AND THE DANISH NATIONAL BANK. GENERALLY, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE UPTURN WILL NOT OCCUR UNTIL EARLY 1976.
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